

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1 and 4-6; and add new Claims 10-18 as follows.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A vehicle air conditioning unit for a vehicle including a passenger compartment, the vehicle air conditioning unit comprising:

an air duct, through which air is blown into the passenger compartment;

and

a partition board, which partitions the air duct in its inside into a first air passage and a second air passage, wherein:

temperature of air in the first air passage and temperature of air in the second air passage can be separately controlled;

the air duct has a recess on its one side;

an air conditioning device is disposed in the recess; and

the partition board is deformed ~~correspondingly~~ in a manner similar to the recess in the air duct so that a ~~corresponding~~ cross-sectional area of the first air passage and a ~~corresponding~~ cross-sectional area of the second air passage ~~should be~~ remain approximately equal.

2. (original) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 1 further comprising:

a first air outlet formed in the first air passage;

a second air outlet formed in the second air passage;

an air outlet switching door, which simultaneously controls openings of the first air outlet and the second air outlet; and

a drive means for driving the air outlet switching door, wherein the air conditioning device is the drive means.

3. (original) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 1 further comprising:

an evaporator disposed inside the air duct and cools air blown into the passenger compartment; and

a heater core, which is disposed inside the air duct and heats the air blown into the passenger compartment, wherein the vehicle air conditioning device is one of a refrigerant piping connected to the evaporator and a hot water piping connected to the heater core.

4. (currently amended; withdrawn) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 1 wherein the partition board is deformed to have a ~~substantial~~ recess ~~corresponding~~ similar to the recess in the air duct.

5. (currently amended; withdrawn) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 2 wherein the partition board is deformed to have a ~~substantial~~ recess ~~corresponding~~ similar to the recess in the air duct.

6. (currently amended; withdrawn) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 3 wherein the partition board is deformed to have a ~~substantial~~ recess ~~corresponding~~ similar to the recess.

7. (original) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 1 wherein the partition board is deformed to have a stepped shape.

8. (original) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 2 wherein the partition board is deformed to have a stepped shape.

9. (original) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 3 wherein the partition board is deformed to have a stepped shape.

10. (new) A vehicle air conditioning unit for a vehicle including a passenger compartment, the vehicle air conditioning unit comprising:

an air duct having a side wall through which air is blown into the passenger compartment; and

a partition board substantially parallel to the sidewall which partitions the air duct in its inside into a first air passage and a second air passage, wherein:

temperature of air in the first air passage and temperature of air in the second air passage can be separately controlled;

the air duct has a first recess in the sidewall;

an air conditioning device is disposed in the first recess; and

the partition board has a second recess opposite to the first recess so that a cross-sectional area of the first air passage and a cross-sectional area of the second air passage are approximately equal in the vicinity of the first and second recesses.

11. (new) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 10 further comprising:

a first air outlet formed in the first air passage;

a second air outlet formed in the second air passage;

an air outlet switching door, which simultaneously controls openings of the first air outlet and the second air outlet; and

a drive means for driving the air outlet switching door, wherein the air conditioning device is the drive means.

12. (new; withdrawn) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 11 wherein the shape of the second recess of the partition board substantially corresponds to the shape of the first recess.

13. (new) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 11 wherein the partition board is deformed to have a stepped shape.

14. (new) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 10 further comprising:

an evaporator disposed inside the air duct and cools air blown into the passenger compartment, and

a heater core, which is disposed inside the air duct and heats the air blown into the passenger compartment, wherein the vehicle air conditioning device is one of a refrigerant piping connected to the evaporator and a hot water piping connected to the heater core.

15. (new; withdrawn) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 14 wherein the shape of the second recess of the partition board substantially corresponds to the shape of the first recess.

16. (new) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 14 wherein the partition board is deformed to have a stepped shape.

17. (new; withdrawn) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 10 wherein the shape of the second recess of the partition board substantially corresponds to the shape of the first recess.

18. (new) A vehicle air conditioning unit according to claim 10 wherein the partition board is deformed to have a stepped shape.